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# Georgia Outdoors



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March Issue



## New Fishing Regulations Show Only Minor Changes

Several minor changes have been made in the 1965-66 Georgia fishing regulations by the Game and Fish Commission, but on the whole the regulations for this year are basically the same as those of past years.

In fact, the Georgia creel limits on most species of fish are so liberal that few anglers are physically capable of violating them. The most likely exception is mountain trout, with a limit of eight fish per day. If an angler's conscience does begin to bother him, all he needs to do to check on the limit is to consult the back of his fishing license.

Although there is no state-wide size limit on any species of fish, the Commission has placed a 10-inch limit on bass in 9 State Park Lakes and in the U. S. Forest Service's Lake Russell where special stocking projects have been underway.

Bow and arrow fishermen should be

encouraged by abolition of the closed season on taking rough fish in the spring. Archers may now take carp, gar, and other rough fish while they are spawning in shallow water in the spring, but are not allowed to take game fish at any time.

On Lake Seminole, the Commission halted use of a two-inch mesh net during three months of the winter. The normal three inch mesh net used in other State lakes to take rough fish may still be used at Seminole. The move was taken to protect striped bass which the Commission plans to stock in Seminole this year.

Also adopted was a ban on possession or transportation of the South American flesh-eating piranah in Georgia without a permit from the Game and Fish Department.

### Trout Regulations

Only minor changes were made in the trout regulations. As usual, the Georgia mountain trout streams outside the management areas will open on April 1st and close on September 15th. Management area streams will open on the usual schedule from May 2nd through Labor Day.

Perhaps the most interesting of the changes in trout regulations is the creation of a second "Trophy Trout Stream" on a 20-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River below Buford Dam to the Old Jones Bridge. Fishermen in this section of the river will be limited to artificial lures only with a 10-inch limit on trout. From the Old Jones Bridge downstream 11 miles to the Roswell Road bridge, there will be no restrictions on bait or size limit, as in previous years.

The new regulations on the Chattahoochee below Lake Lanier are designed to insure that larger trout will be available in the river which will be large enough to eat shad and other small fish killed in the Buford Dam



Ranger George Jones, left, receives citation from Commissioner Beverly Langford.

### Ranger Jones Cited For Lanier Rescue

Ranger George M. Jones of Flowery Branch was formally commended recently by the outgoing Chairman of the Game and Fish Commission Board, Beverly Langford, for his heroic actions in the rescue of two young swimmers early last summer. A resolution citing Jones for his rescue efforts was adopted by the Commission.

According to Commission Director Rosser Malone, the near tragedy which occurred on Lake Sidney Lanier in late June was avoided only by the alert rescue actions of Ranger Jones, who spotted the youngsters after they were overcome by exhaustion some 75 yards from the nearest shoreline.

Ranger Jones, a short-time member of the Department, has served as a law enforcement officer for the Game and Fish Commission since 1962.

### As We Go To Press...

Due to the time limitations involved in producing *Georgia Outdoors*, our next issue will contain a full report on the actions of the General Assembly and their effect upon hunting and fishing licenses cost.

turbines. Use of artificial lures will allow smaller fish to be released unharmed, since the number of trout present in the river is limited to stocked trout, and the shifting sand bottom of the river makes hatching of trout eggs impossible. The size limit will protect stocked fingerlings until they reach catchable size.

Other changes in trout regulations prohibit use of live bait-fish in trout streams or moving trout from one stream to another. This action was taken to prevent contamination of trout streams with undesirable species and to prevent possible spread of fish diseases from one stream to another.

## New Commissioner Appointed From 9th

Newly-appointed Game and Fish Commissioner Edgar B. Dunlap, Jr. of Gainesville joined the ten other members of the Commission's governing body last month as the official representative from the Ninth Congressional District.

Commissioner Dunlap succeeds former Ninth District Commissioner John B. Wikle, who resigned his post on the board earlier last fall due to ill health. The new Commissioner's term of appointment will extend through 1967.

As an active member of the Gainesville community, Commissioner Dunlap has previously served as president of the Gainesville Kiwanis Club and Elks Lodge. In connection with his professional interests in real estate and insurance, he is currently serving as president of the Gainesville Association of Independent Insurance Agents. Other organization memberships include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Military Order of World Wars.

Commissioner Dunlap also saw extensive service during World War II in the South Pacific Theatre.

Dunlap is an ardent quail and dove hunter and year-round fisherman.





Deer hunting showed the most significant improvement of all types of Georgia hunting during the 1964-65 hunting season, with more bucks in the bag than ever before.



The spread of the pine tree and heavy undergrowth is credited with making quail hunting poor during the past season, in spite of a good year for young quail.

## 1964 Marks State-Wide Boom In Georgia Hunting Seasons

Hunting in Georgia this season has been on the upswing with a larger deer kill, dove kill, and increases in the rabbit kill in North Georgia. Quail hunting has been good over most sections of the state due in part to a good year in reproduction and food. Quail hunting was good in South Georgia, poor in North Georgia.

### Deer

In Georgia the most increasingly important game animal is deer. Not only does the successful hunter have a large amount of meat, he also has a fine trophy animal. The average deer killed in Georgia usually furnishes approximately 70 pounds of dressed, cut, and wrapped meat, plus a fine rug or trophy head for the den wall. Deer hunting was good in North Georgia, excellent in the Piedmont Area around Cedar Creek, and excellent to good in South Georgia. This is due to the natural habitat for deer in these sections of the state, and to a rapidly increasing deer herd.

### Quail

Quail hunting is considered Georgia's second most important game species in the amount of hunting pressure. The State had a good reproductive year with most of the hens able to successfully hatch a clutch of eggs. Reports from the hunters in the field indicate that even with this success in young, quail were numerous but hard to find in South Georgia due to the heavy ground cover. Not enough hard frosts occurred to kill back the ground cover. In the Piedmont section of Georgia the quail hunting was the most successful. Northern sections of the state offer a dwindling supply of quail due to rapid conversion of agricultural lands to grass and trees, especially pines.

### Rabbits

Rabbit hunting is one of the most pop-

ular game species with Georgia hunters. No shortage of rabbits was encountered in most sections of the state. However, in North Georgia warbles or "wolves" caused some damage to young rabbits during the early fall. Rangers and game biologists reported some dead rabbits due to this pest in areas north of Atlanta.

### Squirrels

Georgia hunters found squirrels most plentiful in South Georgia due to plenty of acorns and other seed-bearing plants along rivers and streams having a supply of hardwoods. Squirrel hunting was poor in North Georgia due to a lack of plant mast caused by the late spring freeze. Squirrels are migratory when food is in short supply and an unusual vast migration took place in North Georgia with squirrels moving out of the mountains into the Piedmont and South Georgia during the early fall. Hunters having good squirrel dogs had some success in areas where a few acorns escaped the spring freeze.

### Doves

Migratory birds, especially doves, were plentiful during the early season. These birds were mostly birds reared in this state since hunter bag checks revealed mostly young birds of the season. Poor hunting was general in North and Central Georgia during the second dove season. This was due in part to early ripening crops, especially brown top millet, and to rain shortly before and during the first season in North Georgia.

### Ducks

Native Wood Duck hunting was good only along the streams, rivers, and swamps, especially those having oaks with acorns. Migratory mallards, black ducks, and scaups were generally scarce due to the absence of extensive cold weather during the federal duck season.

## Commission Names 8 Safety Officers

The State Game and Fish Commission has announced the appointment of eight men who will serve as District Safety Officers for each of the eight enforcement districts in the State.

In announcing the appointment of these men, it was pointed out that each man was one of three nominated for the position by his District Chief based on the past record of the men as well as their appearance, personality, conscientiousness and ability. Final selection was made after a comprehensive study of the attributes of each man.

Plans are now being made to train the officers for their positions. A training school is planned for late March or early April where they will receive training in firearms safety, water safety and first aid. The training school will be held in cooperation with the National Rifle Association, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron and the American National Red Cross. Upon satisfactory completion of the training school each man will assume duties instructing interested groups in firearms safety, water safety and first aid.

This program of safety instruction is being initiated as a part of the Game and Fish Department's program to provide recreation safety. The need for such a program is pointed out by the figures recently released by the Department which showed that 146 persons drowned or were killed in boating accidents in 1964 and 10 persons lost their lives as a result of hunting accidents during this same period.

### Walleye Fishing on Burton

The fisheries section of the Game and Fish Commission says that walleye fishing on Lake Burton should be in good condition beginning the first of March.

Stocking efforts by the department over the last three years in Lake Burton has paid off according to netting studies made by fisheries biologists. These studies indicate that a good reproductive population of walleye now exists in the lake.

As a tip to fishermen in the area, walleye fishing should be the best trolling in deep water off rocky points or either around the mouths of creeks flowing into the lake.

## Wildlife In Georgia

(FIRST IN A SERIES)

### RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbow trout (*Salmo gairdneri*) are found only in the mountain streams of North Georgia. This is because members of the trout family are coldwater fish and cannot survive in warm temperatures. However, rainbows are more tolerant than either brook or brown trout and can live in warmer water.

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# Best March Fishing is Expected at Seminole

March is just about the real beginning of the fishing season in Georgia, especially in the Southern part of the State.

Fishing activity is expected to get under way over most of South Georgia during the later part of the month, although unexpected cold weather or high and muddy water conditions could postpone the beginning of good fishing.

Fishing in March will be good for largemouth bass in Lake Seminole on the Florida-Alabama line, in Lake Blackshear near Cordele, and in the reservoir below Columbus above the Walter F. George Dam. The best baits will be black plastic worms and topwater plugs. Bass fishing will still be poor in the Northern lakes until May.

Bluegill and shellcrackers begin biting well in late March in these lakes. Crappie fishing will be good on the three lakes above and on Allatoona, Clark Hill, Hartwell, and Lanier during March. Small minnows, weighted jigs, and spinner lures will be the best baits during this time. Crappie will be spawning in water one to three feet deep just off-shore.

## Shad, Striped Bass

March is one of the best months for sea-run shad in the Ogeechee and other coastal rivers, especially on the full of the moon. Shad will take both silver spoons and bucktail lures.

Striped bass fishing is also good during March in the Satilla, Altamaha, and Ogeechee Rivers, using heavy saltwater tackle and large spoons, jointed plugs, and small eels.

Walleye begin their spawning run out of Lake Hartwell in the Tugaloo River during March, resulting in good catches below Yonah Dam using yellow jigs and live minnows. Walleye fishing should also be good in the Tallulah River arm of Lake Burton above the bridge for fishermen who can find the submerged river channel.

Catfishing will be good on Lake Sinclair and Clark Hill for trot line and jug fishermen using live minnows and cut bait.

March is generally a poor fishing month in most Georgia rivers, with the exception of the shad and striped bass runs in the Coastal rivers.

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Historically rainbow trout are native to streams of the Pacific coasts of North America, from Alaska to southern California. They were introduced into Georgia streams and are found throughout the mountain area as the dominant trout species.

## Food

Rainbows feed mainly on insects, both aquatic and terrestrial, snails, clams and forage fish.



March is the best month for using a landing net to get a tendermouthed shad off the line and into the boat on the Ogeechee River in Coastal Georgia.

## Either-Sex Hunts, Longer Seasons Mark New Hunting Regulations

Either-sex deer hunting for the first time in four Middle Georgia counties and three West Georgia counties is the most significant change in the new Georgia hunting regulations for the 1965-66 season.

Initiation of a one day and two day either-sex hunt on the last day of the deer season in these counties along with a generally longer season reflects the marked increase in the deer population over most of Georgia. The total number of counties open to deer hunting will increase by eight counties from 73 to 81 this year.

The North and Middle Georgia deer season has been extended by five days, beginning October 30th and lasting through November 20th. The Southeast Georgia season is from October 15th through January 1st, with other South Georgia counties open from October 30th through January 5th.

Open for either-sex deer hunting this year for the first time on the last day of the season, November 20th, are the deer-rich counties of Monroe, Jasper, Jones, and Putnam. Open for either-sex deer hunting on January 4th and 5th are the counties of Chattahoochee, Stewart, and Marion. Hunters will be limited to one doe, only in these counties on the special one-day hunts without dogs.

As was the case last year, hunters may not take more than two deer during the season regardless of the location or method of hunting.

Counties and portions of counties opened for deer hunting this year which were closed last year include Bartow, Crawford, Mitchell, Worth, Pierce, Candler, Richmond, and Oglethorpe counties.

Archery regulations were altered this year to provide that bow and arrow hunters may not carry any firearm with them while hunting. The bow and arrow deer season was shortened one week to end on October 23rd this year, allowing a one week interval before the gun season begins. However, bow and

arrow hunters for the first time will be allowed to hunt deer during October in any county in the State which has a gun deer season.

Regulations for most small game species remain the same as last year, except that the raccoon season will remain open all year in South Georgia. The grouse and squirrel seasons have been extended to February 28th to compensate for the loss of hunting time during the deer season by North Georgia hunters who must keep their dogs home in counties with a deer season from October 30th through November 20th.

## Spring Gobblers

The wild turkey season was set later this year to catch the gobbling season in different sections of the State. The first spring gobbler season will be from March 12th through March 28th in the counties of Screven, Bullock, Effingham, Evans, Tattnall, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wayne, Brantley, Glynn, Camden, Charlton, and Pierce.

The second spring gobbler season to open is from March 19th through April 4th in Columbia, McDuffie, Lincoln, Banks, Franklin, Wilkes, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion, and Stewart.

The third season to open is from April 16th through May 2nd in Gilmer, Murray, Fannin, Dawson, Union, Towns, Lumpkin, White, Rabun, Habersham, Stevens, Floyd, Gordon, Chattooga, Walker, and Whitfield counties.

Management area spring gobbler hunts this year will be held from April 19th through April 24th on Chattahoochee, Blue Ridge, Johns Mountain, Clark Hill, and Lake Russell. Permits are \$2.00 a day.

The turkey bag limit is unchanged from last year, allowing hunters to kill only one gobbler in the spring or two in the fall. In no case may a hunter kill more than two turkeys during the year regardless of the location or season.

# Chickasawhatchee Refuge Scene of Successful Hunt

The State Game and Fish Commission's newly acquired Chickasawhatchee Management Area, near Albany, was the scene of one of the most successful deer hunts in Georgia history. The three hunts, which were held on December 28th, January 1st, and January 5th, yielded almost 1 deer for every three hunters. The total number of deer bagged by the 750 hunters was 188, of which 98 were does and 90 bucks. A maximum of 250 hunters per day, accepted by application, were allowed on each hunt.

The most successful of the three hunts was the first on December 28th, as the capacity number of hunters killed 86 deer. As the hunt ended on the second day, a total of 48 deer had been bagged. The third and last hunt brought success for 54 marksmen and especially for Major B. E. Brooks of Albany, Georgia, who registered the largest kill with an 11-point 180 pound buck. The average field dressed weight of the deer killed on the Chickasawhatchee hunt was 68 pounds for doe and 83 pounds for bucks.

Game biologists explain the high hunter success rate on the Chickasawhatchee area in two ways: first, the St. Joe Paper Company, owners of the wildlife refuge, have been effective in protecting the area from poachers and free running dogs, the number one threat to the deer population in Georgia; and second, the area has never been open to the public for hunting, thus giving the deer ample time for herd development. For these reasons, hunters were able to harvest a favorable amount of deer during the 3 hunts.

This harvest also indicates that less deer will be taken in the coming year due to the removal of surplus deer on the area.

On the Chickasawhatchee hunt, which was one of 11 State Game Managed Hunts, over 70% of the hunters used rifles in making their deer kills. This was also the case on 9 other management hunts where hunters had a choice of rifles or shotguns. Game biologists agree that more deer are killed and less are injured when rifles are used. Only one management hunt, the Suwanoochee refuge near Valdosta, prohibited rifles and allowed only shotguns using buckshot. During this year's Suwanoochee hunt 204 hunters bagged only 4 deer.

The main argument against using rifles with most people has been that "They're too dangerous." However, during all of the managed hunts, where rifles are predominant, no accidents were recorded. One managed hunt marksman, L. W. Williamson, says, "The safest hunting you can do is on a managed hunt."



L. W. Williamson bags 175 pound, 8-point buck. This is one of the prizes of the Chickasawhatchee Game Management Area Hunt.



Game biologist Bob Croft examines jawbone of deer taken on Chickasawhatchee Hunt. The age of deer can be determined in this fashion.

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